ST THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Christ is the centre of our school community where we live, love and learn together.

Thursday 2nd September 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian(s),

Saint Thomas More School Organisation 2021-2022

We are planning for normality ahead of the children's return to us this academic year, however we know from experience how much the guidelines can change at such short notice, therefore please continue to check your text messages ahead of the children's return to school next week. Some of the changes we have made due to Covid will be staying with us as we are very pleased with how they have improved our efficiency in some areas. Other things will revert back to normal.

The children return to school on **Monday 6th September**. Our new Reception children are starting in two cohorts. Reception parents have received these dates in their welcome packs.

Homework will be issued in week 2, allowing us to issue the reading books in the first instance.

School Day timings

	Start *Drift in*	Registration	break	lunch	End *Staggered*
EYFS	8.35-8.50 **Reception gate**	8:55		11.15	3.10 **Reception Gate**
KS1	8.35-8.50	8:55	10.15-10.30	11.45	3.10 **Main gate**
LKS2	8.35-8.50	8:55	10.35-10.50	12.10-1.00	3.15 **Main gate**
USK2	8.35-8.50	8:55	10.35-10.50	12.10-1.00	3.20 Main gate

Children arriving after 9am are late and will receive an L mark on the register.
Children arriving after 9:15am will receive a U mark on the register. This means that your child has missed their morning mark.

Attendance and lates

Attendance expectations and procedures will be fully enforced from September. You must call the office on the morning of a child's absence. Children must be in school on time, being late seriously disrupts learning. Further information regarding attendance will be issued in September.

Hot dinners

These will be returning to normal! You will have received a separate letter about this, alongside the menus. These can also be found on the website. The children will be eating in the hall and the studio in their phases. **If your child is currently bringing a packed lunch to school but would like to return to hot meals, please notify school as soon as possible.** Children moving from Year 2 into Year 3 in September will no longer receive their lunches for free unless entitled to Free School Meals under Pupil Premium. Parents are able to apply directly here.

Milk and toast

The deadline has now passed for payment for milk & toast this term. This will be available again before October half term to begin after the half term break. Milk & toast will be available to new Reception children after the October break.

Mid-morning snack and water

Please continue to provide your child with a labelled water bottle. The children may only have water in this. The midmorning snack, if you choose to provide one, may be fruit and NOT junk food. Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will be provided with fruit.

Healthy lunches

If your child is having a packed lunch, please make sure it is balanced and healthy. If we have concerns about the contents of the lunch, we will be in contact to see if we can support in any way.

Face Masks

The current advice from the Government is that staff members and family members will not be asked to wear masks in school. However, as is the case in wider society at the moment, both staff members and family members are able to choose to wear a mask if this makes them feel more comfortable some or all of the time. Therefore, you may see some of our staff members continuing to wear their face masks whilst in communal areas or during drop off & collection and we fully understand if parents and carers wish to do this too.

Positive Covid Case

If your child tests positive for Covid at any time, please email or call the school as soon as possible. By informing us as soon as you are able to do so, it allows us to act swiftly to ensure the correct measures have been taken within school and to ensure the safety of everyone within our school community.

PE days and PE kit

The children will have two PE sessions a week as normal, although if the children have swimming lessons, they will just have that session as it is extended. (Reception have just one scheduled session)

Children will come to school in their PE kits. If they have a **sports after school club**, they may also wear their **STM PE kit to school** instead of getting changed. The only time this will be affected is school photo day. Will we be reinforcing the correct kit however:

- **Red STM t-shirt**
- **Plain black shorts**
- **Trainers**
- **For colder weather please provide a plain black hoodie and plain black tracksuit trousers**

PE days:

	Session 1	**Session 2**
Reception	Thursday	
Year 1M	Tuesday	Thursday
Year 1/2W	Tuesday	Thursday
Year 2S	Tuesday	Thursday
Year 3M	Monday	Wednesday
Year 3CP	Wednesday	Friday
Year 4D	Wed (swimming in Autumn – from the first week)	A second session will resume once swimming has finished
Year 4B	Wed (swimming in Autumn – from the first week)	A second session will resume once swimming has finished
Year 5M	Monday	Friday
Year 5CG	Monday	Friday
Year 6J	Wednesday	Thursday
Year 6P	Wednesday	Thursday

Year 4, Year 3 and Year 5 will be having swimming lessons. We will start with Year 4 in the Autumn term. Please ensure the children are well prepared with a swim bag, towel, swim suit and goggles.

Please can I ask for children not to come into school with different coloured kit.

Uniform and hair

Whilst we have been understanding and lenient over the past year, **full school uniform** will be **expected from September.**

The children MAY wear summer uniform up until October half term if the weather is warm.

Please ensure all uniform is named.

Girls' winter uniform:

- School tie
- Plain white long sleeved shirt
- Red cardigan
- Grey skirt, pinafore dress or smart trousers
- Knee length grey socks or grey or red tights
- Plain black shoes (not trainers)
- Hair tied back and school colours – red, grey or black – hair accessories (please ensure that bows are not too large otherwise we will ask for them to be removed)
- Plain stud earrings only

Boys' winter uniform:

- School tie
- Plain white long sleeved shirt
- Red V neck jumper
- Grey trousers or shorts
- Grey socks
- Plain black shoes (not trainers)
- Hair tied back if it gets in the way of working
- Plain studded earrings only

Make-up and extreme or fashion hair styles are not permitted.

Communication

We communicate a lot! All our letters are saved on the school website if you are unsure of something, we text out and we use social media also. Please make sure you are reading the information that comes to your way. We will still avoid traffic to the office, where possible. There will be staff on the gates to take messages and answer questions.

Clubs

Adam's clubs will start from week 1 – information has already gone out about this, please refer to the letters page on the school website. Other clubs will be communicated about in the Autumn term. **Please ensure the balance for your child's club is clear before they begin school. If an account is in arrears your child may not be permitted to attend their club until this amount is cleared.**

Assemblies

The children will have a **Mission Assembly** on a Monday – half the children will have it in the hall and the other half will watch via teams, and then they will swap the week after. This way we are still avoiding the whole school being together through the Autumn term.

God's Gifts (celebration) Assemblies will take place in the classrooms with Mrs Madia and Mr Breslin on a Friday. These names will be celebrated in the newsletter.

Class Assemblies will take place over the year. Parents will be invited to these and the phase will watch also.

Termly Awards – these will take place three times a year and parents will be invited to attend.

Book looks, Parent Inspire Workshops and dates

We plan to reinstate both the book looks and the parents workshop and we also plan to do an open morning/tour in September. Dates to follow.

Dates for the year will go out once they have been finalised.

Term dates have been issued but can be found on the website.
Again, the children return in September on **Monday 6th September.**

Bags/Book bags

Your children do not need to bring much to school and so will either need a school book bag or a small bag for their reading book and homework.

We very much hope that we can return to the arrangements as detailed here. If the Local Authority require schools to make changes, we will communicate these to you so please check for messages in the days before school returns on **Monday 6th September**.

We look forward to working with you again this year and hopefully progressing to operating somewhere nearer normality! We also look forward with great excitement to taking **Year 5 to Alton Castle next Wednesday!**

With warmest regards,

K Madia
Principal